

April 11, 2019

The April 11, 2019 meeting of the Mansfield Township Environmental Commission was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chair Paul Tarlowe, held in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1976 and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Paul Tarlowe, Kathy Todd, Robert Jewell, Glenn Todd, Jim McMekin and Ruth Panté; Dawn Smith was excused, Ms. Martin was absent.

#### Minutes

It was MOVED by Mr. Todd to accept and approve the minutes of the March 14, 2019 meeting, seconded by Mr. Jewell; all in favor with one abstention.

#### Cafferata Park

Five of eight nesting boxes were installed at the park with an additional three to be installed this week. A flyer has been created by a student and copied for distribution which will hopefully create interest in this project. Two families have volunteered to date.

#### ANJEC Grant

Mr. Tarlowe reported a major effort by Ms. Smith and Ms. Martin to prepare an application for an ANJEC grant. The deadline for the grant application is April 15. The grant to be submitted is for \$1,450 with funds intended for construction of 26 bee huts. There is widespread concern about the possible extinction of pollinator insects, and this nesting habitat will support pollinators in the Township. At issue is the April 15 grant deadline, Mayor Watters wants to know Rutgers' stand on this. A program on June 22 at the Pequest Trout Hatchery will include the distribution packets and provide information about pollinators and bee huts.

#### Land Use Board

Mr. Jewell reported an application of a prospective buyer for Columbia Too; this sale is now under contract.

#### Environmental Issues

Mr. McMekin brought with him a log which has been prepared to host mushroom growth. Holes are made in the log every four inches, then sawdust is inserted into the holes to host the mushrooms. Oak and ash are good hosts, cedar and black walnut are not. Mr. McMekin offered to undertake a workshop, he can drill holes in logs for participants to inject sawdust and mushroom spores. Some mushrooms grow on chips, some on logs, use of local resources works best. It would take him about two weeks to get materials and prepare for such a workshop. A budget amount of \$100 has been designated for a mushroom workshop. This event could be held at Cafferata Park, but it would be a demonstration only. If there is enough interest, a second workshop could be held in the fall, possibly in September.

Mr. McMekin reported the community garden in Washington has plots available, anyone interested can visit [washingtoncommunitygarden.org](http://washingtoncommunitygarden.org). Opening day is the end of April; there are bluebird nesting boxes at the site.

Mr. McMekin brought LED light bulbs donated anonymously to be distributed to Mansfield residents; they will be placed at the clerk's window and should be limited to one per person.

Mr. McMekin MOVED to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Panté

**Next meeting date:**  
**May 9, 2019**